

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication network system comprising a plurality of communication terminals, each having a first transmitting means device and a first receiving means device, connected via a transmission channel, information being transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting means device and said first receiving means device, at least two of said communication terminals being used as relay communication terminals, each of said relay communication terminals comprising:

a second transmitting means-for-performing device configured to perform only one-to-one ~~type~~ communication;

a second receiving means-for-performing device configured to perform only one-to-one ~~type~~ communication;

a received-information relay means-for-transmitting device configured to transmit information received from said first receiving means device to said second transmitting means device and for transmitting information received from said second receiving means device to said first transmitting means device;

a relay-terminal-information transmitting means-for-transmitting configured to transmit to said first transmitting means device terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which

said relay terminal is providing relay services as relay terminal information; and

a relay terminal storage means for storing configured to store information of said relay terminal and another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device,

wherein, upon discontinuing the relay services by the relay terminal which is providing the relay services, the presence or the absence of an available relay terminal is determined by referring to said relay terminal storage ~~means~~ device, and if there is an available relay terminal, an instruction is provided to the terminal which is receiving the relay services to change the relay terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) A communication network system according to claim 2, wherein said relay-terminal-information transmitting ~~means has a function of regularly transmitting~~ device is configured to transmit the relay terminal information regularly.

3. (Original) A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein, upon discontinuing the relay services by the relay terminal, the terminal which is receiving the relay services changes from the relay terminal to a subsequent relay terminal, and the subsequent terminal then stores received information until a connection is established with the terminal which is receiving the relay services.

4. (Currently Amended) A communication network system comprising a plurality of

communication terminals, each having first transmitting ~~means~~ device and first receiving ~~means~~ device, connected via a transmission channel, information being transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and said first receiving ~~means~~ device, at least one of said communication terminals being used as a central relay communication terminal, and at least one of said communication terminals being used as a relay communication terminal, said relay communication terminal comprising:

a second transmitting ~~means for performing~~ configured to perform only one-to-one ~~type~~ communication;

a second receiving ~~means for performing~~ configured to perform only one-to-one-~~type~~ communication;

a received-information relay ~~means for transmitting~~ device configured to transmit information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device to said second transmitting ~~means~~ device and ~~for transmitting to transmit~~ information received from said second receiving ~~means~~ device to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device; and

a relay-terminal-information transmitting ~~means for transmitting~~ device configured to transmit to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services as relay terminal information,

said central relay communication terminal comprising a relay-terminal storage ~~means for storing information~~ device configured to store information of said relay

terminal and another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device, thereby designating an available relay terminal to a terminal which makes a request to provide the relay services.

5. (Currently Amended) A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and at least two of said first receiving ~~means~~ device are provided.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said second transmitting ~~means~~ device and at least two of said second receiving ~~means~~ device are provided.

7. (Currently Amended) A communication network system according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and at least two of said first receiving ~~means~~ device are provided, and at least two of said second transmitting ~~means~~ device and at least two of said second receiving ~~means~~ device are provided.

8.(Currently Amended) A communication network system comprising a plurality of communication terminals, each having said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and said first receiving ~~means~~ device, connected via a transmission channel, information being

transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and said first receiving ~~means~~ device, at least two of said communication terminals being used as relay communication terminals, each of said relay communication terminals comprising:

a second transmitting ~~means for performing~~ device configured to perform only one-to-one type communication;

a second receiving ~~means for performing~~ device configured to perform only one-to-one type communication;

a third transmitting ~~means for performing~~ device configured to perform only one-to-N type communication;

a third receiving ~~means for performing~~ device configured to perform only one-to-N type communication;

a received-information relay ~~means for transmitting~~ configured to transmit information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device to said second transmitting ~~means~~ device and to said third transmitting ~~means~~ device, and for transmitting to transmit information received from said second receiving ~~means~~ device to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and to said third transmitting ~~means~~ device, and for transmitting to transmit information received from said third receiving ~~means~~ device to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and to said second transmitting ~~means~~ device;

a relay-terminal-information transmitting ~~means for transmitting~~ configured to transmit to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device terminal identification information of said

relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services as relay terminal information; and

a relay terminal storage ~~means for storing~~ configured to store information of said relay terminal and another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device,

wherein, upon discontinuing the relay services by the relay terminal which is providing the relay services, the presence or the absence of an available relay terminal is determined by referring to said relay terminal storage ~~means~~ device, and if there is an available relay terminal, an instruction is provided to the terminal which is receiving the relay services to change the relay terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) A relay terminal for use in a communication network system which comprises a plurality of communication terminals, each having said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and said first receiving ~~means~~ device, connected via a transmission channel, information being transmitted and received among said communication terminals through said first transmitting ~~means~~ device and said first receiving ~~means~~ device, one of said communication terminals being used as said relay terminal, said relay terminal comprising:

a second transmitting means ~~for performing~~ configured to perform only one-to-one-type communication;

a second receiving ~~for performing~~ configured to perform only one-to-one-type communication;

a received-information relay ~~means for transmitting~~ device configured to transmit information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device to said second transmitting ~~means~~ device and ~~for transmitting to transmit~~ information received from said second receiving ~~means~~ device to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device;

a relay-terminal-information transmitting ~~means or transmitting~~ device configured to transmit to said first transmitting ~~means~~ device terminal identification information of said relay terminal and terminal identification information of a terminal to which said relay terminal is providing relay services as relay terminal information; and

a relay terminal storage ~~means for storing~~ device configured to store information of said relay terminal and another relay terminal and relay situations of the relay terminals from the relay terminal information received from said first receiving ~~means~~ device,

wherein, upon discontinuing the relay services by the relay terminal which is providing the relay services, the presence or the absence of an available relay terminal is determined by referring to said relay terminal storage ~~means~~ device, and if there is an available relay terminal, an instruction is provided to the terminal which is receiving the relay services to change the relay terminal.

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Preliminary Amendment filed herewith

10. (Canceled)